

ONE-HOUSE PLAN SPURNED

Unicameral Opponent Creating His Own Party of Independents

Steve Scates, the freshman who spearheaded an eleventh-hour drive to beat the unicameral plan, said Thursday he is planning to start a student political party here, independent of the "Greeks and their neglect of the little man."

The new party--if sufficiently organized by April 9--will run a candidate for the office of President of the Associated Student Body here, he said.

Scates' announcement marks the first movement here to organize a force to represent solely those persons not in fraternities and sororities at MTSU.

"Right now, it's just the basic idea that we have," Scates said. "There are no group opinions on any specific issue."

He said a goal of the movement--if it ever becomes an organized unit--will be to eliminate

See the letter to the editor of the SIDELINES on page five.

much of the apathy among MTSU students.

"Basically, the independent party would stand 100% behind anything that would be for the good of the student body," he said.

"We wouldn't try to keep the Greeks out, necessarily," Scates added. "I'm just trying to make them dig their heels in."

Scates, who stubbornly demanded to be heard before the assembly vote on a one-house congress Thursday, said he and his fellow independents sought a defeat of the unicameral plan so that independent individuals on campus might have time to organize.

"I found that the unicameral wouldn't be all that bad," he said, "but the small man wouldn't have a voice."

"I thought that if we got this unicameral plan

defeated then some people might say 'Well heck, now we've got a chance.'"

ASB President Jim Free, commenting on the movement, said he was pleased because if the unicameral proposal had to be defeated, "then it was good that an independent element like this resulted from it."

Scates said he has scheduled no meeting for his new group, because he said the few persons now associated with it can hardly be called a "group." He estimated his number of followers at 20 or more.

"We're going to look at the single person, and ask what he thinks," he said. "And if a bunch of these persons gets together and forms a group, then that's great."

Scates, a Nashville freshman, said he and his fellow independents may find a candidate to run in the ASB elections April 16, but no one has been selected as yet to run on the independent ticket.

The new group will be working under obviously strained circumstances if it hopes to compete for the ASB presidency this year. Deadline for qualifying will be April 9, only three days after classes resume next month. Organization of an effective campaign on campus, then, would have to be completed this week and during those final three days.

Scates said however he is interested in "shooting the whole works," that is running candidates for the class offices later in the semester and creating an effective organization for the presidential elections here in 1970.

"We're going to make the Greeks either dig in or get out," he said.

"I'm not saying that the Greeks have control

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Downed in Favor Of Two-House Congress

The plan for a one-house student legislature--met late in its campaign by rebuttals from a former ASB president and a political science graduate assistant--met also stern defeat Thursday.

The proposal by Doug Bennett, speaker of the ASB senate, was spurned during a student assembly called for the purpose of clarification and ratification of the measure.

See the editorial on page four, "Let's Take A Look At The Spilt Milk."

Thus the unicameral legislature, which had cleared four of the constitutionally required hurdles, stumbled on the fifth.

Both the ASB Senate and House of Representatives had approved the plan twice.

Cliff Gillespie, ASB election commissioner, read the proposed amendment Thursday, then called for questions from the floor.

Steve Scates, Nashville freshman, requested permission to



DOUG BENNETT

address the assembly in a last minute attempt to defeat the proposal.

"Black brothers will not have freedom of speech under the unicameral system," he said. Scates went on to praise the "dear Greeks" but argued that the fraternities made up only

(continued on page 2)

Spring vacation will be from March 31 to April 5. This will be the last edition of the SIDELINES until April 10. Deadline for that edition will be 6 p.m. April 8.

Traditionalists Perpetuate White Racism: Brooks

EDITOR'S NOTE--This is the last in a five-part series of essays written by members of the MTSU student body and faculty on "The Black Movement in America." This final installment, like Part Four, was written by a black student at this university. The views he gives are his own, and as has been the policy for the entire series, no editorial comment is intended. It should serve only as the source of two things: ideas and understanding, the only cure for the diseases of hate and fear which are alienating our races and tearing our country apart.

By Sylvester Brooks

This decade started with a new hope for racial understanding, and in the air there was a strange scent of progress and betterment. There were feelings of concern and sincerity. There was a patch of blue in the sky, but it rapidly disappeared. The wind started blowing a little harder and the thunder of the storm awaited.

For then there appeared those great white defenders of tradition, those who bombed churches and killed children, who beat demonstrators and murdered civil rights workers. And the lives of hundreds of black people were threatened merely because they sought the right to vote.

In the South a young black man was good enough to fight for "justice and democracy" in Germany, in the Pacific, in Korea, and in Vietnam, but he was not good enough to vote for those who wanted to send him to the battlefield.

And in the north a young black man was sent to risk his life on foreign soil, and then maybe return to America, to the ghetto, unable to find a decent job or afford a decent home for his family. Americans in the 1940's crossed the Atlantic with much vigor to fight against Nazi racism, and then they returned to their own country to perpetuate racism.

Then there were the advocates of law and order, the great white

(continued on page 3)



--Drawing by Donna Glass

Geography Dept. Receives Replica

An unusual gift, a replica of the Birdman of Easter Island was presented to the MTSU Department of Geography and Earth Science.

The coral statue was accepted by E. B. Baldwin, chairman of the department, from senior geography major, Joey D. Perkins of Murfreesboro. The gift was acquired by Perkins' father, K. E. Perkins, while

See picture on page 6.

he served military duty on Easter Island. It was carved by Paul Teano, a native of Easter Island.

Baldwin explains the legendary character of Birdman as being based on the annual awarding of honors to any young man who swam the shark infested waters to a nearby island in the Pacific where thousands of seabirds nested. The first contestant to return to Easter Island with an unbroken bird's egg, won the distinction of becoming a hero. He was then relieved of all responsibility and manual labor for the period of one year.

Easter Island is located 2500 miles west of Chili in the Pacific Ocean. It is a possession of Chili and is administered by that government.

138 MTSU Students To Begin Teaching

The opportunity of professional teaching, presently being experienced by 152 MTSU students in student teaching, is slated to begin its next eight-week session April 7.

There are 138 students to begin teaching within a 55-mile

Independents...

(continued from page 1)

now," he added, "but they do occupy high positions on campus, and the duly elected officials do have their control."

Scates urged that anyone interested in uniting under the independent party should contact him at Box 2214, campus mail.

Bart Gordon, a sophomore senator, said Friday that Scates' independent endeavor may find a power-base "in the agriculture department and other areas on campus. They may really get moving, but we just hope they don't."

Sources in a position to know said last week Gordon has been advising Van Martin, a Chattanooga junior, the only candidate who has voiced an interest in ASB presidency.

One-House...

(continued from page 1)

4% of the student body, but that the Greeks control 71% of the Senate.

Scates called for students to "rally around for the common cause of justice." He stated that there could possibly be a revision of the bicameral system as it stands now.

John Ladd, freshman, in a rebuttal to Scates, said that the present unicameral system was chosen by a two-thirds majority twice in each house of the student legislature. "That's enough for me. If they want it that much it's good enough for me."

Jim Free, ASB president, pointed out that MTSU was the only university in the state still under the bicameral system.

Free said the encouraging aspect of the effort for a unicameral system is that the

independents, non-fraternity members on campus, have joined together in their efforts. He said that this was "healthy for the student body."

Before the actual voting Doug Bennett defended the proposal, saying that the purpose was not to put student government under "Greek control." He said, "Never at any time has my concern for the Greeks been more than my concern for the student body."

Strong opposition and approval met Bennett's proposal during its controversy. Floyd Kephart, secretary of student affairs in the Powell administration, argued that the unicameral system would be technically good and expedient, but the present system would give more equitable representation.

Alton W. Powell, ASB president 1963-64, in a letter in the March 17 edition of the SIDELINES, voiced his opposition to the proposed unicameral system by saying that

in effect the proposed measure would eliminate a necessary communication link between students and the ASB.

Summer Session To Be Shortened By One Week

The two summer terms of the '69 summer session at MTSU have been shortened from five and one-half weeks each to five weeks each, according to John E. Weems, dean of admissions.

Weems said the summer session will begin June 9 and continue for 10 weeks.

Students planning to attend both terms of the summer session should register for both terms at the beginning of the

summer session, according to Weems.

Twelve hours of summer work costs the student \$75 if both terms are registered for at the beginning of the summer session. However, if the student waits until the end of the first term to register for the second term, the cost of the entire 12 hours is \$120, Weems said.

Students attending classes during the present semester will be asked to complete a form if they plan to attend during the summer session, he said.

Former MTSU students who are not in attendance during the present semester must complete their admission credentials and be accepted for admission at least two weeks prior to registration day.

Students applying for admission to MTSU for the first time should include a physician's medical report and a transcript of the student's previous grades, according to Weems.

The deadline for final acceptance is two weeks before registration day.

radius of MTSU, but at the present the system has acting student teachers. Approximately 25 college teachers are given student charges on which they check weekly to comment and advise.

Not only does student teaching involve teaching in itself, but it involves all activities surrounding it. Dean N. C. Beasley is to be the guest speaker at an in-service meeting and banquet headed by Dr. Elmer Raper. The activities are scheduled for Friday, April 11. Registration is to begin at 4 p.m. with the banquet starting at 6:30 p.m. This meeting and banquet, given for the student teachers and their supervising teachers, is chiefly for the purpose of evaluation.

VISTA Volunteers To Aid Project Here

Vista volunteers will speak on campus Tuesday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. in room 201 of the old Student Union Building.

Ray Rogers, Vista worker from Cookeville, will speak to MTSU students to create interest in creating a program similar to the Vista program now in Cookeville.

Rogers has started a program with the help of Tennessee Tech and students are helping needy families in that area. These Tech students help families by giving them clothing, insulating their houses, and helping keep their children in school.

Mrs. Judy Smith, sociology instructor, has had Rogers talk to her classes. Stated Mrs.

Smith, "The students felt that if the Tennessee Tech students could start such a project, so could the students at MTSU."

Mrs. Smith hopes this meeting will create interest in students for the "impoverished conditions of Rutherford county."

"We hope to start a program in the rural counties of Rutherford county. Later on if this program in the rural counties

proves successful we can start a program within the city."

The meeting is open to all concerned students and faculty.

J. Henry Faulk, Humorist, Will Be Here May 6

John Henry Faulk, American humorist, will speak here May 6 in connection with Law Week, it was announced yesterday.

ASB president Jim Free said Faulk will address the student body at 11 in the DA auditorium. The program will be sponsored by the ASB and the Pre-Law Club.

Faulk, an Austin, Texas, farmboy, started his career in 1946 on the CBS radio show "Johnny's Front Porch." In the early years of his career he was primarily concerned with the serious side of life.

Today Faulk is nationally known as a humorist. He has been compared with Mark Twain, Will Rogers and Al Capp. Faulk uses laughter comment on the world situation.

Al Capp has said, "Faulk is a unique entertainer."

Concerning Faulk's humor Edward R. Murrow said, "John Faulk's humor is as uniquely effective as it is delightful because it is genuine. It is derived directly from the American mainstream."

Faulk has appeared on such television programs as the Jack Parr Show, The Today Show, To Tell the Truth, Johnny Carson's Tonight Show, The Mike Douglas Show and The Steve Allen Show.

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Petitions Available For ASB Elections

Larry Gillem, the ASB's new commissioner of elections, said last week persons interested in running for ASB President may obtain petitions now in the ASB offices, third floor, UC.

Deadline for qualifying for the April 16 elections is April 9, three days after classes resume following spring vacation.

Senator posts will also be filled April 16, and these petitions may also be secured in the ASB offices.

Gillem's appointment to head the election commission was approved by the ASB Senate Thursday. He follows Cliff Gillespie, a Nashville junior, who resigned Friday.

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Traditionalists . . .

(continued from page 1)

hopes, the "Stand In the Door George Wallaces" and the "Burn the Cross Robert Sheltons." The likes of these conservative reactionaries created Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown in the middle years of the decade, just as the reactionaries of London in 1776 created Pateick Henry and Thomas Jefferson.

With the installment of Black Power, the big stick slogan of law and order became the crutch of many Americans. That kind of set up only meant a black man being hit on the head by a white cop. If there is an absence of law and order, it is because there is an absence of justice. Thus, law and order can go to hell. The laws of any society must be just and enforced justly, if indeed that society sincerely wishes to endure.

The man who is most responsible for the development of Black pride in this country is Stokely Carmichael. There is a little story that goes with this. For years whenever a white man wanted to degrade a Negro, he would simply call him black. But one day that same white called that same Negro black, and the Negro responded, "Black and Proud." Stokely stood before hundreds of black people and nailed down a powerful message. "Your skin is black, your lips are big, your noses are wide, your hair is kinky--and you're beautiful." It was the beginning of something great, it was the beginning of a revolution.

As we come closer each day to the next decade, the 1970's, we see divisions in the white ranks and cracks in the great white wall. But let it be known that the wall has seen nothing yet. The Detroit Massacre of 1967 was not the end to violence, it was the prelude of revolution. There will be no peace in the 70's if we use the same approaches we used in the 1960's.

In this decade white middle class Americans have tried to direct the progress of black people. White Americans must understand that black people want to have a say in the decisions that shape their lives and destinies. In short, we want to run our own communities.

Black people are tired of being forgotten about until the white politicians get mixed up in a war. Then every politician dresses in red, white and blue, and marches through the ghetto singing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." We are tired of being mercenaries and soldiers without a cause. We are tired of being "looted" by the ghetto shopkeepers who only exploit the people, and who squeeze all the money out of black ghettos and carry it to the rich suburbs.

White moderates must forget their idea about what they are giving to the Negro. "Life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" are not gifts, they are rights. And as time runs out, the liberal pretenders rush to make up for 350 years of injustice, 350 years too late.

Black people do not want white sympathy, we want honesty. In retrospect, white liberals made the future look brighter than it actually was. And when push came to shove, their promises were unfulfilled, the unfounded optimism they generated had diminished, and white liberals became as scarce as snake wings on rabbits (and that is pretty scarce).

The President's Commission on Civil Disorders reported to the American public and to the world that there is no black problem in America; rather there is a white problem.

The Commission said that the underlying reason for the revolts in the cities is white racism. "What white Americans have never fully understood--but what the Negro can never get--is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it." Then the commission summed up the state of the union. "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white--separate and unequal."

If we are ever to be brought together, it is going to have to be on a fifty-fifty basis. Until white America is willing to meet us half way, we shall continue to raise the fists and demand the stars.

White America must come to realize that the black movement concerns not only black people, but the restructuring of an entire society as well. And it concerns the image of America before the emerging nations of the world. If the black movement fails, American society is doomed.

"We have marched, we have cried, we have prayed, we have voted,

we have petitioned, we have been good little boys and girls. We have gone out to Vietnam as doves and come back as hawks. We have done everything possible to make the white man recognize us as human beings." And, said Ernest Chambers, "He refuses."

We have tried to reason with white America, even with the insignificant elite at MTSU, and we have failed. We are tired, impatient, frustrated and angry. America, a traditionally violent society, has taken non-violence for granted, as it takes everything for granted.

Democracy in practice in this country still means the suppression of black people. And majority rule only equals white supremacy. We know about the American dream, but we know more clearly about the American dream deferred. You better believe this is a sick nation. Black people have known for a long time how deeply runs the sickness of America. And yet white Americans cling to the tradition of racism, which breeds the sickness. And yet you give honor to the bigots and reactionaries. Well, you are the ones who may very well force into the hands of my brothers and myself the guns of liberation and revenge.

If there is to be any unity and peace between black and white, white Americans must make the next move. Because we are not going into the streets anymore like sacrificial lambs to be beaten and murdered. Those days are over.

Martin Luther King was the best friend the white man had, and you killed him. So, now there is Eldridge Cleaver, who says there shall be no compromise. And the Black Panther Party is not collecting machine guns all over the country in preparation for a non-violent march on Washington.

White America has created a monster which it no longer can control. The odd thing is that all the Black people have ever wanted is the chance to breath freely, the chance to be respected as men.

Guerrilla warfare need not take place in this country, but it is late in the day and the storm awaits. For the white hammer of tradition yet knocks on black heads, and we are tired. Something has got to give.

Guerrilla warfare is not impossible, and few people understand its implications. Many choose to see it merely as a 90% majority and 10% minority basis. They forget placing time bombs in public auditoriums and stadiums do not necessitate the services of a million soldiers. Neither does the poisoning of a city's water supply, the destruction of power lines and the fire bombing of homes and churches. A trained and organized force is all that is needed.

The white man cannot understand why so many black people are willing to give their lives. The answer is simple. When you've got nothing, you've got nothing to lose. Dick Gregory uses this illustration concerning organized black revolt, and the great American fear of such. When Krushchev said, "We will bury you," no one except the John Birch Society got really upset. Now here comes Rap Brown with a .32 caliber pistol, and he says "Black Power." All of a sudden people start to panic and talk about law and order.

We are all living in an age of transition, "transition from tradition." There is no doubt that the revolution is coming. The real question is whether or not it will be bloody and violent. That is up to white America. Black people will do what they are forced to do, but we are not going to wait another one-hundred years, not even ten more years. The 1970's, the decade of the show-down, will soon be upon us. There will be no tokenism, and there will be no compromises in which black America is not met half way by white America.

The lines have been drawn, and time is running out. Perhaps Gordon Park of Look Magazine put it best when he wrote the following lines to white America. "What I want--what I am--what you force me to be is what you are. For I am you, staring back from a mirror of poverty and despair, of revolt and freedom. You are tired of the long hot summers, I am tired of the long hungry winters. I too am America; America is me. LOOK AT ME. LISTEN TO ME, AND KNOW THAT TO DESTROY ME IS TO DESTROY YOURSELF."

Kappa Omicron Phi To Initiate 18

Kappa Omicron Phi, the Home Economics honor society, will hold initiation for 18 new pledges Thursday, March 27, according to Marie Smythia, president.

Miss Smythia, a Christiana junior, stated that a pledge service was held March 13 for the pledges, who consist of mostly sophomores and juniors and one faculty member, Mrs. Lois Hampton. This will bring the membership to approximately 26.

Requirements for membership include a 3.2 average in Home Economics courses and a 2.7 average in out-of-department courses. Members must also belong to the local chapter of the American Home Economics Association.

Plans are also being made for presentation of an award to the most outstanding Home Economics student, said Miss Smythia.

Before the end of the semester, two representatives from the MTSU chapter will be selected to attend the national conclave meeting in August at Estes Park, Col.

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Keathley Announces Renewal Of Four Loan Programs

Four loan programs are now available to MTSU students seeking financial aid, according to Belt Keathley, director of student aid.

The National Defense Education Act Loan Program (NDEA), financed by the federal government, is available to students of financial need who have demonstrated their ability to do above-average scholastic work.

Maximum loan per semester through NDEA is \$300 or \$200 for the summer session.

Money borrowed under the provisions of this program must be repaid within nine months after leaving school. Specific conditions relating to teaching after graduation may be set to secure cancellation of the principal of this loan.

NDEA students must carry at least 15 semester hours during fall and spring semesters or 10 hours during summer sessions.

The MTSU Foundation makes relatively small loans to enrolled and a few entering stu-

dents. There is no provision for cancellation.

Repayment features are worked out between the student and the student aid director.

Under the Guaranteed Loan Program, the State of Tennessee guarantees loans made from local banks under certain conditions. Loans are due nine months after leaving school. No cancellation feature is offered.

The maximum loan per 12-month period is \$1000.

In addition, the federal government provides a relatively small amount of money in the form of Educational Opportunity Grants for students of exceptional financial need.

These grants must be matched by NDEA loans, University and/or private scholarships, or wages from certain kinds of campus jobs.

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Let's Take A Look At The Spilt Milk

With the failure Thursday of Doug Bennett's proposal for a one-house student congress, it may be well to consider just what can be salvaged from the plan.

Despite statements charging the proposal lacked organization and foresight, the measure possessed many good and still-useful ideas.

The proposed method of representation--separated among the classes and schools--can still be accomplished without a conversion to a one-house legislature. As Floyd Kephart said last Monday, "couldn't you accomplish this by a simple revision in the election procedures?"

All who did attend the assembly-poll Thursday possibly saw another benefit. This system of basing such an important vote on how many persons attend a meeting almost cries for reorganization.

Beauty pageants are operated on this basis, sometimes, but not votes concerning legislatures and the future of a student government.

It's also interesting to note nature of the successful opposition. If the suffering minorities, that Steve Scates spoke of, voted for status quo because they wanted to band together "into one big man," and thus have a representative voice, then why couldn't they have done so under a unicameral congress? "We wanted time to organize," he said.

Equal representation among all students would have been possible with the unicameral plan, and it still is, but the independents would have none of this. "It is better," they must be saying, "to hold on to what we've got in an antiquated system, rather than accept a system that might require us to do a little work."

So the one factor that makes the entire Thursday vote ridiculous is this:

Why haven't these persecuted and suffering "minorities" banded together before now? Why, that would have taken some thought and eventual effort. For such persons, perhaps it is better to let things stay as they are.



"GENTLEMEN, WE MUST FACE THE GRIM POSSIBILITY THAT PEACE COULD BREAK OUT AT ANY MOMENT."

Senator's Notebook

Amendments May Keep Congress Busy

by Everett M. Dirksen

The U.S. Constitution is a rugged document, but a few dents may be put into it by the 91st Congress. It has been amended only 25 times, and 10 of those amendments--those that provided for the Bill of Rights--came shortly after the Constitution was ratified 182 years ago. Others, like the amendments that abolished slavery, established the income tax and gave suffrage to women, were dictated by events and progress.

The 91st Congress, in session now for two months, may submit several proposed constitutional amendments to the country by sending them to the states for ratification as required by the Constitution. These amendments now in the works are proposals that are also dictated by events.

The subcommittee on constitutional amendments will have a very busy session if it is able to hold hearings on all of the proposed amendments that are now pending. Some of those are:

Electoral college reform, motivated by the prospect that arose during the last election when there was a possibility that George Wallace's candidacy might have thrown the presidential election into the House of Representatives.

The decision of the Supreme Court in the prayer cases has inspired the effort for another attempt to meet this issue by a constitutional amendment.

The interest in conferring the right to vote on 18-year-olds has brought forward several proposed amendments to reduce the voting age.

Single six-year terms for the President and the Vice President are proposed in an amendment submitted by Majority leader Mike Mansfield (Dem.-Mont.).

I am proposing an amendment to permit nondenominational voluntary prayer in public buildings, including schools, even when those edifices are subsidized with public funds.

Sen. Spessard Holland (Dem.-Fla.) proposes an amendment that would permit state sovereignty over public schools and their curricula and facilities even where the schools receive loans and grants from the U.S. Treasury.

Then come a variety of amendments dealing with electoral college reform.

The amendment by Sen. Karl Mundt (Rep.-S.D.) would provide for the election of one elector for each congressman and senator. Two electors would be selected in the statewide election, and the other electors would be selected in the districts, one from each district. Each voter would vote and the declaration would be binding. If, perchance, the election should be thrown into Congress, the Senate and the House together would make the choice, and each congressman would have one vote, as distinguished from each state having one vote.

Sen. Holland has advanced a proportional plan for divid-

ing electors so that each candidate gets a proportional share of the electors that his state is entitled to, the proportion being determined by his proportion of the total vote in the state. In any event, he must get 40% of the vote. If not, the House and Senate would elect by majority vote.

Sen. Ralph Yarborough (Dem.-Tex.) would leave the election machinery as it now is, except that where the election is pitched into the House of Representatives each congressman, instead of each state, would have one vote, and a majority vote would determine the winner.

Both Sen. Birch Bayh (Dem.-Ind.) and Sen. Mansfield have proposed amendments for the direct election of the President and Vice President by a vote of the people. In the Bayh proposal, the states would determine how the party nominees would be selected.

Sen. Mansfield calls for a presidential primary in which the presidential candidate must get 40% of the vote. Should this not occur, there would be a run-off between the two high candidates, and the same thing would be true in the election--the winner would have to get 40% of the vote, otherwise there would be a run-off. Under this plan, the electoral college would be abolished.

It seems pretty certain that a proposal dealing with electoral reform will eventually pass the Congress and go to the individual states for ratification.

Mankiewicz & Braden**Max Lerner**

Col. Omar Torrijos Dominates Panama

PANAMA CITY--Col. Omar Torrijos is the commander of the National Guard of this country of 1.2 million people. He is also without any challenge, the chief of state, prime minister and president, although he holds none of those titles. He runs the country from a dingy barracks office, where he also often sleeps at night, and he talks like a combination of Thomas Jefferson and Saul Alinsky.

Last week, with a minimum of fuss, he hustled his co-strong man, Col. Boris Martinez, and a few of his aides out of the country--some say in handcuffs--to be delegates to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington.

Government Surveys

(President Nixon has assigned Charles "Bud" Wilkinson to survey all government boards and commissions to determine which are obsolete and unnecessary. Any reasonable man would have to conclude that the Inter-American Defense Board is an extravagant absurdity--but without it where would Latin-American countries exile their dissident colonels?)

The two colonels had run the country in uneasy tandem since last year's coup which threw out President Arnulfo Arias 11 days after his term began. Now Torrijos is alone at the top. To Americans accustomed to Latin colonels who topple reformist governments at the urging of the entrenched oligarchy, and who then put on their dress uniforms and move to the palace, Torrijos is so far something of an exception.

Press Censorship

There is firm press censorship. There are political prisoners in jail for months who have only now begun to be tried. There are small guerrilla bands in the West, near the Costa Rican border.

But there are indications that these stern measures will be relaxed, and in any event they seem not to have raised the public temperature. The country is in, as the colonel puts it, "a state of apathy," which he hopes to turn into a state of sympathy--for his government. The prisoners--for the most part officials of the previous, pre-Arias government accused of corruption of various kinds--are being brought to trial.

Future Elections

Elections of some kind have been promised by at least mid-1970, under a new constitution and electoral law. One problem, of course, will be how to rig an electoral law which will prevent Dr. Arias, who has won the presidency three times in the past 38 years, only to be thrown out by the guard each time, from running. Panamanians will always vote for him, some say long after he is dead.

But when he begins to talk about reform in the basic social structure of Panama, Col. Torrijos most departs from the

stereotypic military leader in the hemisphere. He and his colleagues speak scathingly of an economic and political system in which only a few families make all the decisions.

They propose a nationwide program of community action in which groups at all levels--students, landless farmers, slum dwellers, subprofessionals--are organized around their grievances to assert their demands and to participate in the government decisions which will follow.

Majority

In a country where the overwhelming majority of the people have always been told what to do and how their problems are to be solved, this is little short of revolutionary, especially when accompanied by an attempt to broaden the base of economic power as well.

In addition, the civilians gathered to run the government bureaus--many of them in their late 20s and early 30s--are eager to participate in something more than just another interim shuffling of paper and authority. A permanent Civil Service is a major reform item, and one which could go far to restore public confidence in the whole process of government, now largely scorned as a contest among thieves.

Finally, there is a new canal treaty with the United States to be negotiated, signed and ratified. Col. Torrijos seems not to have that very high on his agenda. But if things go badly, he can always turn in that direction. Nothing unites a Latin nation more these days, as observed, than a few public tugs on the Yanqui tail.

ABM System Proposal Meets 'Lively Debate'

The honeymoon is over, and the posted antihunting warnings have been ripped down. When Richard Nixon said that his decision in favor of a modified ABM system would be met by a "lively debate" nationally, it was the understatement of the year. Just in tactical terms he blundered earlier by setting a definite time when he would announce his decision. The suspense buildup proved massive, and politically damaging.

Lyndon Johnson did it much better when he had Robert McNamara announce the original ABM thin-shield decision at San Francisco in September, 1967, well insulated within a shield of its own in a speech that stressed an offensive-defense nuclear philosophy. Since Defense Secretary Melvin Laird has a Hawkish reputation, Mr. Nixon may have felt he could not delegate the announcement to him. He may also have wanted to show the people his willingness to make and announce the hard decisions himself. He fielded the questions well. Yet on the major problem of the wisdom of the decision he failed to convince most of the ABM opponents, which includes this writer.

Nuclear Debates

Since the Cuban missile crisis, the debates on nuclear policies have been mainly between the technicians and have not become popular national debates, as this one has. Inside the Soviet Union, the decisions to expand the nuclear armory--as with the nuclear submarines and the ABM sites deployed around Moscow--have been in response to the combined pressure of the military leaders and the nuclear technicians.

The remarkable fact in America now has been the solid front of scientists and analysts against ABM deployment. This is one case where the deterrence establishment and the peace establishment have joined forces. In 1950, when President Truman had to make his crucial H-bomb decision, the scientists were split into the J. Robert Oppenheimer and Edward Teller camps. Today even the experts of the Eisenhower regime have joined those of the Kennedy-Johnson regimes against the Nixon decision.

United Front

It took hardihood for President Nixon to outface this united front and decide as he did. But to be hardy doesn't mean you have to be foolhardy. I have already heard people calculating how long John Kennedy was in office before he met his Bay of Pigs disaster. The answer is that it was on

April 17 to 21 in his first year of office--only a bit later than Richard Nixon's current confrontation.

With his "modified base" for the ABM, President Nixon tried to show himself not as a nuclear Hawk but halfway between Hawk and Dove. But to present the decision as a peace decision was too thin a ploy to be credible. It may be true that the Russians, as realists, had already discounted the decision, but that won't keep their nuclear Hawks from using it as an argument for further escalation, nor will it keep their arms-control negotiators from raising doubts about American intention.

By shifting from an ABM deployment around major cities to a deployment around Minutemen missile-sites, Mr. Nixon tried to keep from too sharp a break with the McNamara philosophy. For McNamara had made it clear, in each of his major reports and speeches, that America's best nuclear defense lies not in the impassable task of building enough defensive weapons, but in an overwhelming second-strike offensive power. Presumably, the long-range Spartan defensive missiles and the short-range, high-speed Sprints will be there to protect America's offensive weapons and will thus further strengthen America's credible deterrents.

But if McNamara was right, that power was already credible enough even without ABMs, and he yielded to the Hawkish pressure for a "thin shield"--presumably facing toward China--against his own better judgment. Neither Mr. Nixon nor Laird shares that reluctance. They are shifting to an ABM-oriented defense philosophy, rather than a deterrent-oriented one.

Effectiveness

This seems all the stranger at a time when many experts doubt the technical effectiveness of the ABMs and predict that the thin shield is bound to escalate into a heavy one, and the cost from \$7 billion. Mr. Nixon says there will be an annual review of everything, and an annual decision, but a decision is a decision, and it is this one we face. One remembers that Mr. Johnson's Vietnam involvement was subject to even more frequent reviews but that the escalation-thrust remained each time.

President Nixon may retrieve some of the right-wing support he has recently been losing, but at a single stroke he is in danger of losing all the liberal support he had seemed to gain. I am still open-minded about his larger policies, but on this front I mean to fight him.

Letter

Thursday Was A New Storming of Bastille

To the editor:

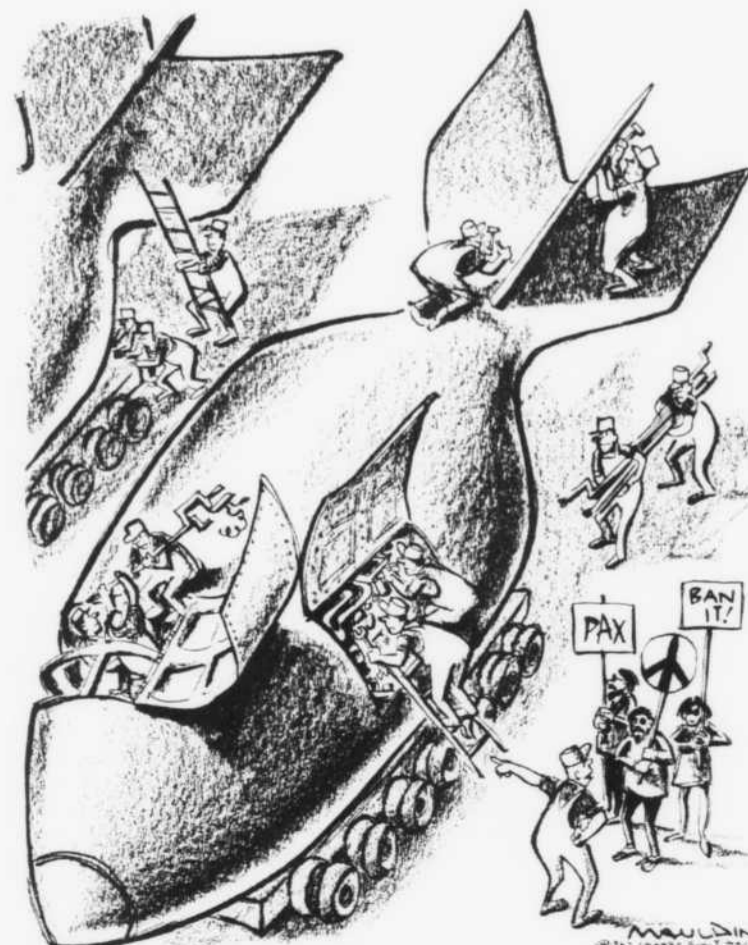
The defeat of the bill for a unicameral legislature here at MTSU was not just a bill being voted out. It marked the first time the small man stood up and fought for what he believed.

It was, in essence, the modern day storming of the Bastille. It proved that the small man, when united, is indeed a very significant power to be reckoned with.

I plead with my opponents to dig their trenches honorably and to avoid political mudslinging. For to have true justice, we shall unite in the common pride.

I also ask for our little people on campus to unite with me and form another party, to endorse a candidate, and run our choice in the spring elections. If defeated, we have the knowledge that we gave a try and showed our convictions and sincerity. If elected we shall have helped our opponents to dig a little deeper and fight a little harder. And to do this, we have not only helped ourselves but all the student body of MTSU.

I speak for myself in saying



"YOU CALL YOURSELVES IDEALISTS AND YOU WANT TO PUT ALL THESE PEOPLE OUT OF WORK?"

I hold no bad omens toward our opposition. I hold only respect for a close battle, and maybe the founding of a two-party political front.

In the future I can see a possible unicameral system. Mr. Bennett, your bill was not defeated because it was a bad piece of legislation. It was fought because the small man needed time to form his ranks.

I only ask that this movement not stop here but proceed until some day we are voted down by another small man that we have left out.

To make this university a true university of scholars, shall we not regress but lift our lance high and march to a total unity that would have as its truth a common belief in all people for the true cause.

Many years from now this movement and its founders will have been forgotten, but the lesson it taught and the people who learned will not have been forgotten.

I pray for unity, but I ask for honor.

Steve Scates
Box 2214



The MTSU Sacred Harp Singers under the direction of Margaret Wright, center, instructor in the Music Department, will go on tour March 31-April 2. Their performance will include folk songs, Sacred Harp hymns, white spirituals, ballads and Southern folk songs. The singers are, from left, Mickey Dyce, Jack Kay, Glen Belcher, Rocky Craft, Brenda Anderson, Ann Jackson, Margaret Wright, Phyllis Norwood, Pat Smith, Bill Lord, Bill Cantrell, and Jack Birchett.

Who Was The Most Outstanding Teacher?

Nominations for the \$1,000 Outstanding Teacher Award for the 1968-'69 academic year will be accepted through Friday, Howard Kirksey, dean of faculty, announced Friday, March 21.

Alumni, faculty members and students are asked to nominate the person who they feel is the most outstanding instructor of 1968 and '69. The ballot appears on page 7 of this paper.

A group of finalists will be composed of teachers who are nominated by at least one student, alumni and faculty member, according to Kirksey.

If a finalist agrees to participate in the program, he will be evaluated by the students in his classes, the head of his department, and participating alumni, according to Kirksey.

Three instructors will be selected from the results of the evaluation to receive the Outstanding Teacher Award for the academic year of 1968-69, said Kirksey.

Each of the three winners will receive an award of \$1,000 at the annual MTSU Alumni Banquet on May 24.

The awards are provided by the MTSU Alumni Foundation, which sponsors the contest.

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Baldwin and Perkins, with Birdman, story on page 2

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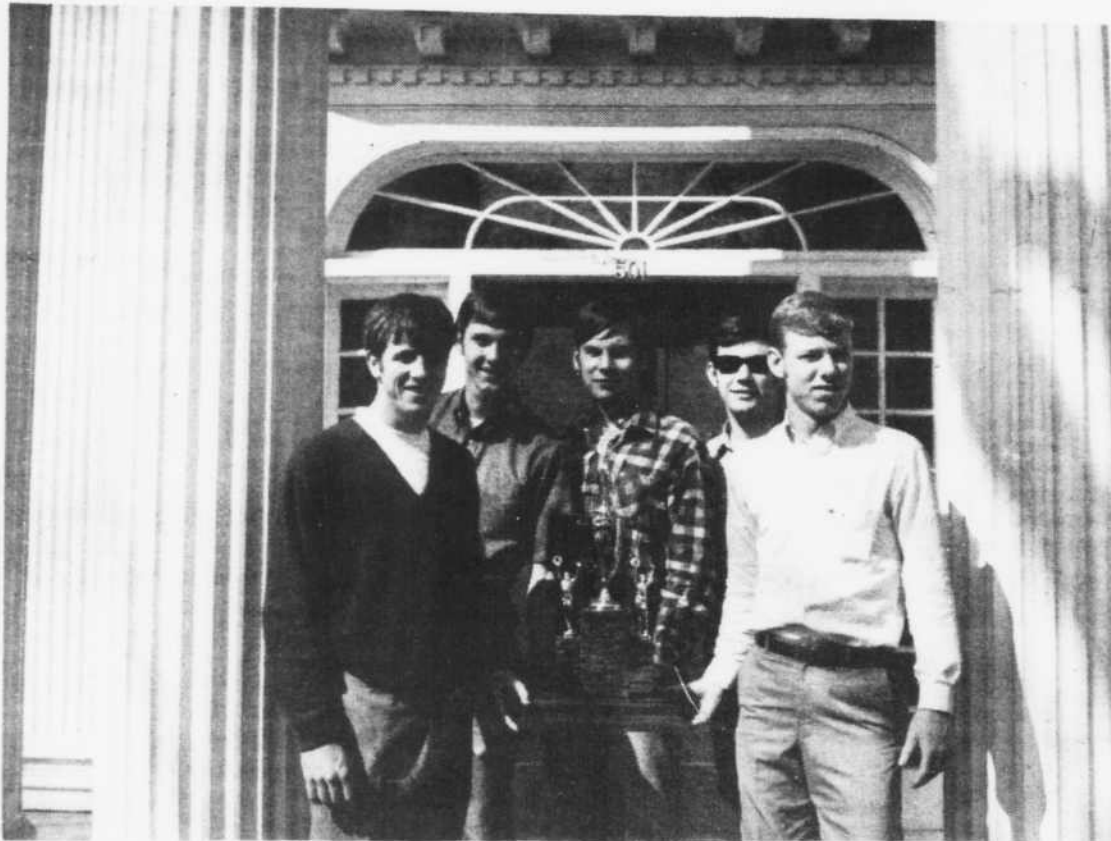
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KAPPA SIGS FIRST



These KAPPA SIGMA CAGERS display the trophy the fraternity captured Thursday with its victory over Lambda Psi in the annual intramural basketball tournament here. In front of the Kappa Sig house are, from left, Steve McElhane, Gary Newman, Jim Dixon, Jim Cockerham and Andy Beasley, fraternity president.

Revised Editions Win 59-54, Badminton Next on Girls' Agenda

Finals in the girls' intramural basketball league were held last Monday night at the campus school, with the Avengers coming out the winner over the Revised Edition, 59-54, in league 1, and Chi Omega winning 50-38 over Alpha Gamma Phi.

Overall strength and shooting ability seemed to be the order for the day in league 1, with some of the top girls players on campus playing.

Judy Linville swished the nets for 33 points in pacing the Avengers to the championship, while Betty Carol Fite hit the bucket for 34 netters to take game honors.

Margaret Duncan rimmed in 26 in leading Chi Omega to the win. Beth St. Clair was high-

pointer for the losers with 16 points.

Any one wishing to enter a team in the softball intramurals should get their team roster in by the end of this week,

Badminton will be the next activity open for girls, Miss Carolyn Landreth states.

April ninth will be the last day a team can enter the competition. Any information can be obtained from Miss Landreth, Box 392.

Three events will be available for entry. Singles for women, doubles, and mixed doubles. The information sheet

should state: name, event(s), partners name and box number. The tournament draw will be posted in the gym by April 11.

Edwards Paces Team in Piedmont Relays

Jon Edwards paced the Raider track team in the Piedmont Relays over the weekend with a fourth place finish in both the shot-put and discus.

Edwards tossed the shot 51' and hurled the discus 151'4".

The two-mile relay, composed of Dennis Bandy, Charlie Dahlgren, Darryl Phillips, and Pat Hughes also placed fourth in the competition. They finished with a 7:46.3. All four of the winners broke the former meet record.

Schedule for Spring Competition

The tennis schedule for this year:

March 24.. Bowling Green (home); March 26, Tennessee, (there); March 28-29, Southern Mississippi Invitational(Hattiesburg, Miss.); March 31, Oral Roberts University,(there).

April 1..Tulsa(there); April 3: Arkansas(Tulsa); Arril 4, North Texas State(Tulsa); April 8, Vanderbilt(there); April 10, Washington University(home); April 11, Eastern Kentucky (home); April 12, Morehead St.

(home); April 14, Lipscomb (home); April 18, Mississippi State(home); April 23, Sewanee (home); April 24-26, TIAC (Chattanooga).

May 2, ETSU(there); May 3 Tech (Johnson City); May 6 Tech (there); April 9, Murray, (there); May 10, Western Kentucky(Murray); April 10, APSU, (Murray); May 15-16, OVC(Bowling Green).

June 3, Eastern Intercollegiate (Hamilton, New York).

Brown, Polk Play

Willie Brown and Art Polk will be competing tonight in the Tennessee-Kentucky All-star game in the Nashville Municipal Auditorium.

Brown and Polk, co-captains of this year's Raider basketball team, will compete with Tom Hagan from Vandy and against the likes of Lamar Green and Phil Argento.

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Congratulations

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Raiders Take To Diamond, Host Wayne State Today

By David Word

Wayne State will be the first opponent for this years edition of the MTSU Blue Raider baseball team as the two schools meet in a double header here today.

Starting pitchers for todays games will be Gary Chrisman in the first game and Mike Scarberry in the second game.

Due to a rash of minor injuries many positions have not been filled as yet. At first base will be either Larry Brantland or Tommy Brightwell. Either C. W. Patterson or Tony

Kessenger will open at second base and Brady Straub is a sure starter at shortstop.

Third base will be played by either Tom Schamburgh or Bo Alvarez. Alvarez has a bad shoulder and is a doubtful starter for the opening game.

Doing the catching this year will be Butch Wright who as baseball coach Jimmy Earle said "is the best all round catcher in the league."

The outfield will be manned by Tommy Eiselstein in center and Jackie Carter in left. Either Butch Green or Charley Daniels will be in right field.

Todays games will be the first of six for this week. Wednesday the Raiders will take on Bethel College in a doubleheader here and then will travel to Nashville Friday to do battle with Belmont College for another pair of games.

Western Kentucky will provide the first OVC competition for the baseball team this year when the Hilltoppers bring their nine here to play the Raiders Monday, March 31. The Hilltoppers are expected to field one of the leagues strongest teams this year.

Todays games will start at 1:00 this afternoon as will all other doubleheaders played here.

"We're young and inexperienced this year, but we are still looking for a real good season.

The field is in good shape and we will be ready to play Monday," stated Straub, captain of this years team, Saturday.



Brady Straub and C. W. Patterson



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Suggestions Sought for Womens Conduct

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Linda Judd box 5156

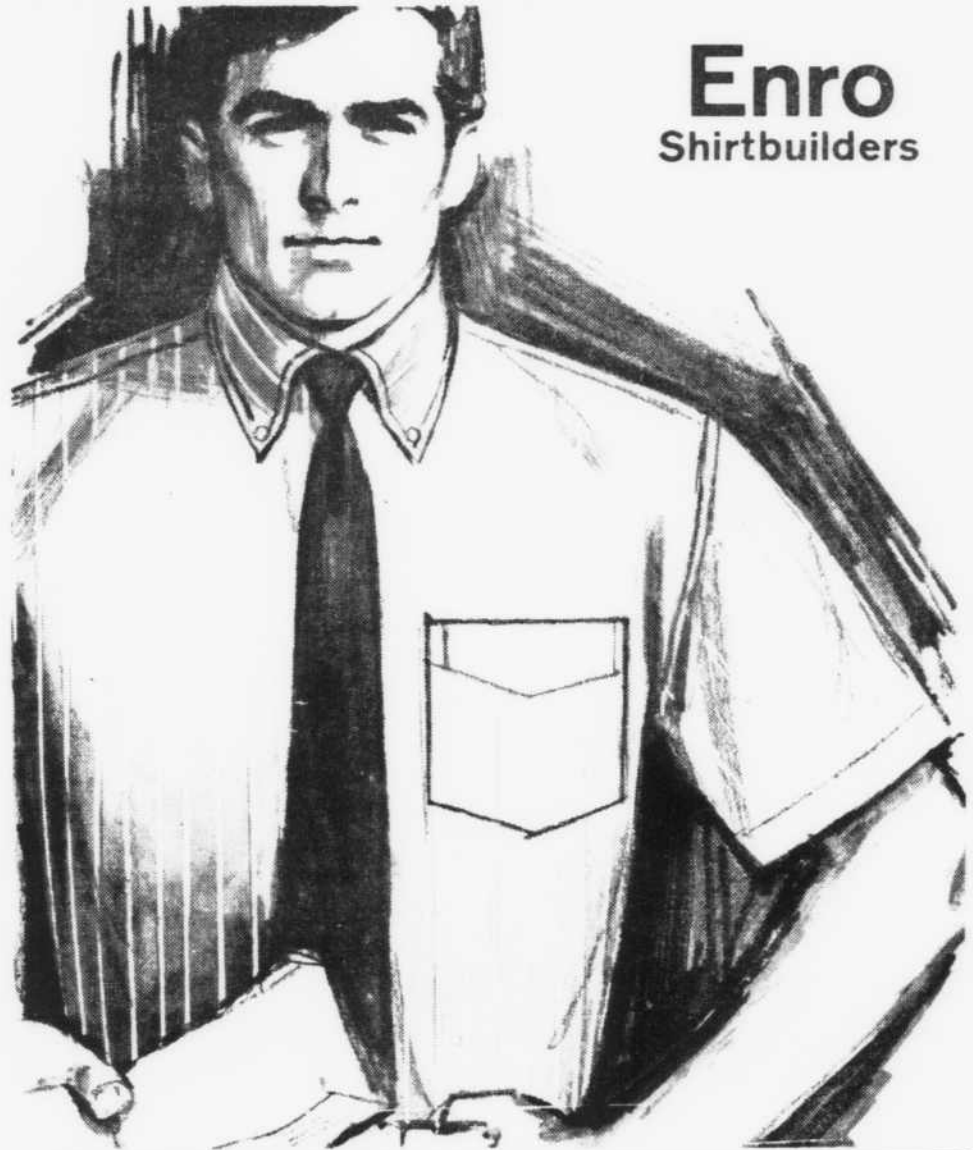
all statements must be signed and received by Thursday afternoon March 27

these suggestions are being sought by the rules committee.

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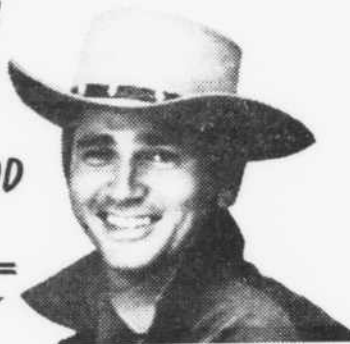


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